

OFFICE OF THE
SOUTH CHURCH,
(Congregational).

ARTHUR DIETRICK, Minister,
Residence, 20 Chestnut St.

PEABODY, MASS., 10-31-06

THE SECOND MONTHLY REPORT OF THE PASTOR TO THE CHURCH CABINET
Season of 1906-7

Presented at the second cabinet meeting Oct.31,1906.

Dear Friends:-

The chief event of the period since our last meeting (Oct.1st) from the pastor's point of view, was the installation council and service held on the afternoon and evening of Oct.25th. It involved much preparation both on the part of the pastor in preparing his statement, and on the part of the people in making the necessary arrangements for the entertainment of the council, but the result was entirely satisfactory and I trust that the church feel as well repaid for their trouble and expense as does the pastor. The council is said to be one of the largest ever held in this conference, and the public exercises were of a high order. The omission of the sermon and the introduction of an antiphon between the Moderator, the minister, and the congregation were innovations which seemed to justify themselves in practice.

During the period of time covered by this report, the pastor has prepared and delivered 13 sermons and public addresses, of which 9 were in South Church, one in Maple St. Church of Danvers in exchange with Mr. MacFadden, one in the Y.M.C.A. at Danvers, one at the fall meeting of the Essex South Conference at Lynn, and one in the Second Congregational Church of Peabody.

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Season of 1906-7

Presented at the second cabinet meeting Oct. 31, 1906.

Dear Friends:-

The chief event of the period since our last meeting (Oct. 1st) from the pastor's point of view, was the installation concert and service held on the afternoon and evening of Oct. 28th. It involved much preparation both on the part of the pastor in preparing his statement, and on the part of the people in making the necessary arrangements for the entertainment of the council, but the result was entirely satisfactory and I trust that the church feels well repaid for the trouble and expense as does the pastor. The council is said to be one of the largest ever held in this conference, and the public exercises were of a high order. The union of the sermon and the introduction of an address between the Moderator, the minister, and the congregation were innovations which seemed to justify themselves in practice.

During the period of time covered by this report, the pastor has prepared and delivered 15 sermons and public addresses, of which 3 were in South Church, one in North Church, and one in exchange with Mr. Lathrop, and in the I.W.C.A. at Peabody, one at the Fall meeting of the Essex South Conference at Lynn, and one in the second Congregational Union of Peabody.

The pressure of preparation for so large a number of public

addresses has in the pastor's judgment, seriously interfered with the parish visitation, so that only twelve pastoral calls are reported. This deficiency has in part been remedied by the aid of the mails, for the letter record shows 53 pastoral letters written since Oct. 1st.

Besides the regular services of the church on Sunday morning and evening, the pastor has attended 23 meetings of various sorts in his official capacity. Of these, four were the regular Friday evening people's meeting; three Sunday morning prayer meetings; four sessions of the Sunday school, at which he taught some class; three committee meetings of the Y.M.C.A. at which the union work for the men and boys of Peabody was planned for the winter; one meeting of the ministers of Peabody to arrange for a union thanksgiving service, detailed announcement of which will appear in due time; two meetings of the young people's society; a faculty meeting of the Sunday school; a meeting of the Men's Club; two public receptions; and two funeral services, those of the Hon. Benjamin Southwick, officer of this church, and Mr. Edward Hodgkinson personally unknown to the pastor.

It is fitting at this time for me to register my feeling of loss in the death of brother Southwick who had, even in the very brief period of our acquaintance, given evidence of his devout Christian character, his unbounded interest in the work of the Kingdom, and his high capacity for service.

In addition to the duties in the home field enumerated above, the pastor has twice been out of town in attendance upon important gatherings. At the state Sunday school convention in Holyoke for three days, and at the fall meeting of our conference in Lynn for one day, the pastor followed with interest and profit the presentation of topics related to our work.

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for the men and boys of Rosbury was planned for the winter; one

meeting of the ministers of Rosbury to arrange for a union thank-

giving service, detailed announcement of which will appear in due

time; two meetings of the young people's society; a faculty meeting

of the Sunday school; a meeting of the Men's Club; two public recep-

tions; and two funeral services, those of the Rev. Benjamin Bortnick,

officer of this church, and Mr. Edward Hodgkinson personally known

to the pastor.

It is fitting at this time for me to register my feeling of

loss in the death of Brother Schuchman, who had, even in the very

brief period of our acquaintance, given evidence of his devout

Christian character, his unbounded interest in the work of the church,

and his high capacity for service.

In addition to his duties in the home field enumerated above,

the pastor has twice been out of town in attendance upon important

gatherings. At the State Sunday school convention in Holyoke for

three days, and at the Fall meeting of our conference in Lynn for one

day, the pastor followed with interest and profit the presentation

of topics related to our work.

One incident of the month stands prominently forth in the pastors mind on account of its delightful social nature. The reception tendered for the church to the new minister and his wife by the women's association on the evening of Oct. 30th was one of the pleasantest social occasions in the recollection of the pastor. An affair planned more delightfully and carried out more gracefully would be hard to imagine.

Two features of the services for the past month are perhaps deserving of remark on account of the deviation from accustomed lines. The communion service held at the regular hour of morning worship and guided by the complete printed program was well attended, and the pastor has heard a large number of commendatory comments. It would seem justifiable, without making the idea permanent, to continue this form of service for another time or two in order thoroughly to test its relative merit. The pastor will welcome any comment or suggestion on this point. The other unusual feature was the Question Box which was conducted by the pastor on Sunday evening Oct. 28th at which eight questions bearing upon various ethical and religious topics were answered, and more than twenty questions left unanswered for lack of time. The pastor expects to complete the question box at the last Sunday evening service of the coming month.

At the appropriate head under new business the pastor has a number of suggestions to make for our future work, which can be discussed and determined at that time.

It has been a good month. Let us make November better.

Fraternally yours
Arthur Dietrich

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 It has been a good month. Let us make November better.

*Forthrightly Yours
 William C. Smith*